

REMARKS

Claims 18 is the only claim currently pending in the present application. Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatenable over Burman et al. in view of Wodarz et al. and in further view of Davis et al. Claim 18 has been amended to overcome the rejection. The rejection is overcome for the following reason.

The present application has previously been amended to include a reference to Patent Application No. 08/787,979, now U.S. Patent No. 6,285,987, filed on January 22, 1997. As currently amended, Claim 18 finds full support in the disclosure of the prior filed application. Applicant is therefore claiming priority to the filing date of the prior application, which was co-pending with the present application. Applicant's claim to priority is permissible, being that the present application was filed before November 29, 2000 (See 37 CFR §1.78(a)(2)(ii)(B)), and therefore no petition is required. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the instant claim to priority.

In view of the claim to priority to the filing date of the prior filed application, the rejection is deemed overcome, being that at least the Burman and Davis references post-date the effective filing date of the present application.

Amendment to the Title, Specification, Drawings and Abstract

Applicant has amended the title and abstract to better reflect the claimed invention.

Application No.: 09/372,416

Art Unit: 2178

Dated: November 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Signature: /Benzion A. Wachsman/

Benzion A. Wachsman for Assignee

Tel.: (718) 928-2213

Fax: (718) 504-9671